



MEMA REPORTS

MEMA REPORTS is a monthly newsletter produced by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to help keep the Public Safety Community of Massachusetts better informed about the day's Emergency Management issues. MEMA REPORTS also appears on the MEMA website: www.mass.gov/mema.

August 15, 2012

Volume 11, Issue 6

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

President Barack Obama has again designated September to be National Preparedness Month. The purpose of National Preparedness Month is to help motivate you and your family to become better prepared for emergencies. The Four Steps to become better prepared are: 1) Build a Kit; 2) Make a Plan; 3) Be Informed; 4) Get Involved; - as described on the Ready.gov page: <http://www.ready.gov/>. Keep an eye out for the many activities being planned throughout the month of September by local emergency management agencies, private entities and MEMA to promote Personal and Family Preparedness.

SEOC ACTIVATED FOR BERKSHIRE COUNTY PLUME

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Framingham was at a Level 2 (Full) activation on August 2nd in order to monitor potential impacts on southern Berkshire County from the plume of a massive industrial fire at a transformer recycling company in Ghent, NY. This plume was suspected of containing PCBs or other hazardous chemicals. Representatives from the following agencies were present at the SEOC: Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP), Dept. of Fire Services (DFS), MA State Police, Dept. of Public Health (DPH), National Guard & Civil Support Team, Dept. of Agricultural Resources, Dept. of Conservation & Recreation, FEMA, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and American Red Cross. Personnel from DFS, DPH, EPA and the National Guard's Civil Support Team conducted sampling in southern Berkshire County which ultimately proved 'negative'. There was a 'Shelter-in-Place' recommendation in place throughout the day for the residents of the ten impacted communities.

CMAS ALERTS

In July, the Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS) became part of FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), the nation's next generation of alert and warning capabilities. It is one more tool for federal, state, local, tribal and territorial officials to communicate with the public. This new public safety system allows enabled mobile devices, as demonstrated during Massachusetts' recent Tornado Warnings, to receive geographically-targeted, text-like Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) messages alerting them of imminent threats to safety in the area. WEA messages will notify residents' cell phones with a message of 90 characters or less, free of charge, when an alert has been issued. Customers who have WEA-capable cell phones can receive three types of alerts from their wireless hand-held devices: 1) Alerts issued by the President; 2) Alerts involving imminent threats to life and safety; 3) AMBER Alerts. Customers should contact their wireless carriers to determine if their current phones are WEA-capable and if the carrier is providing the WEA service in their area. (Information, about which mobile devices are WEA-enabled, can be found at www.ctia.org/WEA.) WEA ensures that emergency alerts are not delayed by network congestion,

Deval L. Patrick, Governor
Timothy P. Murray, Lieutenant Governor

Mary Elizabeth Heffernan, Secretary of Public Safety & Security
Kurt Schwartz, MEMA Director

which can happen with standard mobile voice and text services. Authorized government officials can send messages, which participating wireless providers then push using their cell towers to enabled mobile devices in a targeted geographic area. The public does not have to sign up to receive WEA messages. The service is offered free by wireless carriers. For more details about Wireless Emergency Alerts, visit <http://www.fema.gov/integrated-public-alert-and-warning-system>.

BE SAFE AMERICA

This fall the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and others are supporting the Safe America Foundation's campaign to improve emergency preparedness – *BE Safe America*. The U.S. Chamber and the Safe America Foundation are working together this year to improve American emergency preparedness. The *BE Safe America* campaign encourages organizations to highlight their commitment to safety and preparedness by pledging to conduct some form of readiness exercise during a September/October drill season. This year, Safe America has expanded the objectives of *BE Safe* to include conducting an anonymous web survey of emergency managers to identify: 1) what their organization's most pressing preparedness concerns are and 2) how many organizations are already conducting preparedness activities with their employees this September as part of National Emergency Preparedness Month. For additional details concerning the campaign: <http://www.safeamericaprepared.org/home/163.html>.

UPDATED CAPE COD EMERGENCY TRAFIC PLAN

The Cape Cod Emergency Traffic Plan (CCETP) which has been developed to facilitate egress of the high volume of traffic from Cape Cod in the event of a hurricane, particularly during the peak tourist season has again been updated. Although developed for a hurricane scenario, this 'All Hazards' Plan has been designed to be utilized in a number of emergency situations. This is not an Evacuation Plan. The term 'evacuation' applies to the movement of a population from low-lying, flood-prone areas to higher, safer ground. Most residents would be safe in their homes or at local designated mass care shelters. Residents should learn from their local Emergency Management Director the particular hurricane risks for their area, finding out if their property is subject to storm surge or inland flooding. There probably would be no reason to evacuate the entire Cape in the event of a hurricane. During the summer months, however, it is anticipated that most tourists would attempt to leave the Cape & Islands if a serious hurricane is predicted. Details are available at www.mass.gov/mema.

HURRICANE SEASON GETTING READY TO HEAT UP

Although the 'National' Hurricane Season runs from June through November, our time of greatest concern in New England is in late August and September. Now is the time to make the proper preparations if you have not done so already. To help increase public awareness of the effects hurricanes can have on the Commonwealth and the Preparedness steps we all must take, over the fourteen weeks of June, July and August, MEMA has again disseminated important information to ensure the continued safety of our citizens and property through weekly News Releases and postings on the MEMA website at www.mass.gov/mema highlighting key issues relative to the New England Hurricane Season. Key Hurricane Topics include Massachusetts' Hurricane History, Preparedness Tips for Families, Home Owners, Populations Requiring Additional Assistance, Pet Owners, Boaters, Businesses, Inland Residents, as well as information about Sheltering-In-Place and Evacuation.

NOAA RAISES HURRICANE SEASON PREDICTION

This year's Atlantic Hurricane Season got off to a busy start, with 6 named storms to date, and may also have a busy second half, according to the updated hurricane season outlook issued by the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center, a division of the National Weather Service. The updated outlook still indicates a 50% chance of a near-normal season, but increases the chance of an above-normal season to 35% and decreases the chance of a below-

normal season to only 15% from the initial outlook issued in May. Across the entire Atlantic Basin for the season, June 1st to November 30th, NOAA's updated seasonal outlook projects a total (which includes the activity-to-date): 12 to 17 named storms (top winds of 39 mph or higher), including: 5 to 8 hurricanes (top winds of 74 mph or higher), of which: 2 to 3 could be major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; with winds of at least 111 mph). The entire report is available on the NOAA site at: http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2012/20120809_atlantic_hurricane_season_update.html.

POLL SHOWS TOO MANY AMERICANS ARE NOT PREPARED

A new national survey shows that Americans have not learned their lessons from recent disasters. The Adelphi University Center for Health Innovation poll revealed that 44% of U.S. adults don't have first-aid kits and 48% lack emergency supplies for use in the event of catastrophes. The researchers said that people have a responsibility to boost their emergency preparedness, to make difficult or life-threatening situations safer. The findings suggested that Americans have a false sense of security. Although the researchers found that more than 53% of Americans do not have a three-day supply of nonperishable food and water in their home, those surveyed believe they can survive in their homes for an average of 16 days in the event of a disaster. The poll also revealed that 55% of Americans think they can rely on local authorities to come to their rescue when disaster strikes. For more details, go to <http://consumer.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=6667566>.

FEMA ANNOUNCES DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL

On July 23rd, FEMA announced the formation of its first Youth Preparedness Council. The Council supports FEMA's emphasis on and dedication to involving the whole community in preparedness related activities. FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council is a unique opportunity for a select group of youth leaders to serve on a highly distinguished national council and to voice their opinions, experiences, ideas and solutions to help strengthen the nation's resiliency for all types of disasters. Nominated by individuals who can attest to their preparedness activities, Council members demonstrate a willingness to represent the youth perspective on emergency preparedness and take information back to their communities to share it. Research states that: 1) Youth who are trained in preparedness are more resilient in actual disasters; 2) Youth are highly effective messengers for reaching and influencing parents and other adults; 3) Youth who are engaged today will ensure a future generation of prepared adults. For additional information about the Youth Preparedness Council, go to: <http://www.citizencorps.gov/getstarted/youth/youthindex.shtm>.

MEMA STAFF UPDATE

Scott MacLeod has been promoted to the position of Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Division Manager. In his new management role, Scott will oversee the staff of the Recovery Unit and the Mitigation Unit. Jaclyn Hamel has transitioned from her role as Resource Management System (RMS) coordinator to Operations Coordinator, working in the Response & Recovery Division. The Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Division has had two new additions, with Dan Nietzsche and Alexander Gill joining the team as Hazard Mitigation Grants Coordinators. In addition, Rebecca Russ-Broome has joined the Communications Unit as a Dispatcher.

MEMA SUPPORTS VARIOUS LOCAL EVENTS

July 24 - The Mobile Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) was on display for the public at the Barnstable Fair.

July 27 thru 29 - MEMA Supported the Lowell Folk Fest with the MEOC serving as the Incident Command Post for local, state, and federal agencies. MEMA also supported the event with over (24) cache radios for event coordination

July 31 - MEMA once again supported a fallen police officers' funeral in Western MA. Westfield Police Department in-conjunction with the Mass State Police utilized the MEOC as the coordination center for the funeral and traffic.

August 3 thru 5 - MEMA supported the Pan-Mass Challenge Event for the third straight year with communications support statewide as well as on site at the MA Maritime Academy in Bourne. The new Mobile Communications Support Trailer (MCST) supported the command center with (3) control station radios and an emergency ring down phone 'remoted' into the building. Over (80) cache radios were also used across the bike route for coordination as well.

STATEWIDE ALL-HAZARDS INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM STRATEGY UPDATE

Tetra Tech, the vendor hired by MEMA, has completed the first phase of this project which consisted of research on how other States have and/or are developing All-Hazards Incident Management Teams (IMTs). From this research, a draft Summary Report has been produced and two stakeholder meetings were conducted to solicit comments on this draft. The draft is now being revised to incorporate stakeholder comments and this revised document will be disseminated once developed. Tetra Tech will then begin development of draft Guidelines for Development of Local/Regional All-Hazards IMTs and Guidelines for the Development of a State All-Hazards IMT. The intent of the Guidelines is to provide a 'blueprint' for other localities and regions to develop IMT's, if they desire, and for MEMA to stand-up a State IMT that may be comprised, in part, of members of Local and Regional IMT's. MEMA will hold additional stakeholder meetings to solicit comments on these draft documents once they are developed.

JULY TRAINING UPDATE

During this past month, an additional 25 individuals attended 13 different classes, receiving training through MEMA in the following subject area: *ICS-100/ NIMS 700*. Year-to-date, 1,311 have been trained. For additional information regarding MEMA Training and future classes, go to www.mass.gov/mema.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CLASS

The *Surveillance Detection Course for Law Enforcement & Security Professionals* commenced on August 1st to 3rd at Quincy Police HQ. This three-day course was designed for law enforcement and private sector security professionals, and provided participants with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to detect hostile surveillance conducted against critical infrastructure. Consisting of five lectures and three exercises, this course increases awareness of terrorist tactics and attack history and illustrates the means and methods used to detect surveillance and identify suspicious behavior. Twenty-eight participants including all levels of government, private security, and law enforcement attended, and successfully graduated. MEMA staff from the Region II Office in Bridgewater participated on Day 3, as role players for the final graded exercise.

FEMA OFFERS ONLINE SOCIAL MEDIA COURSE

FEMA unveiled a new independent study course entitled "IS-42 Social Media in Emergency Management" (<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is42.asp>). Social media is a new technology that not only allows for another channel of broadcasting messages to the public, but also allows for two-way communication between emergency managers and major stakeholder groups. Increasingly the public is turning to social media technologies to obtain up-to-date information during emergencies and to share data about the disaster in the form of geo data, text, pictures, video, or a combination of these media. Social media also can allow for greater situational awareness for emergency responders. While social media allows for many opportunities to engage in an effective conversation with stakeholders, it also holds many challenges for emergency managers. The purpose of this course is to provide the participants with best practices including tools, techniques and a basic roadmap to build capabilities in the use of social media technologies in their own emergency management organizations (State, local, Tribal, Regional) in order to further their emergency response missions.

EMAC EXERCISE

MEMA Operations Manager Allen Phillips, Operations Coordinator Jaclyn Hamel and Nuclear Planner Kathy Cederberg have participated in a joint Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) EPAPP/JRSOI (Personnel Processing & Accountability Process/Joint Reception Staging Onward Movement & Integration) exercise with the National Guard. This exercise tested the mobilization, check in and demobilization of forces. Over 200 personnel were successfully checked in and demobed during the exercise

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS FORUM

On July 31, the Town of Wareham conducted a Hurricane Preparedness Forum. MEMA's Mobile EOC was available for tours along with many other exhibits and displays. The lead speakers included Bob Thompson, Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Taunton office for the National Weather Service; Wareham Police Chief Richard Stanley; Steve Holmes, Chairman of the Wareham Board of Selectmen; James Mannion, MEMA's Region II Manager; and Ray Price, Director of Safety and Security for South Coast Hospitals. The audience was very enthusiastic. Both print media and cable television were present for the event.

CAPE COD CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL SPONSORS PREPAREDNESS EVENTS

Family Preparedness Open House sponsored by Cape Cod Citizen Corp Council (CCCCC) to be held at the Barnstable County Health & Environment Harborview Conference Room (Old County Jail), 3195 Main Street, Barnstable, MA from 2PM to 6PM on Friday, September 14th. Preparedness Tips for families, seniors and those needing additional assistance, interactive displays, compression-only CPR and activities for children are offered. The CCCCC will be raffling off a tour of the new Barnstable County Correctional Facility and lunch with Sheriff James Cummings in addition to several items for Preparedness. The following agencies will be represented at the Open House: Barnstable County Department of Health & Environment public health nurse, Elder Services of Cape Cod, Barnstable County Sheriff's Office CERT, Cape Cod MRC, Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Committee, American Red Cross, Cape Cod DART, local Fire Departments and the Dept of Conservation and Recreation, Mashpee Wampanoag Emergency Preparedness, New York Life Insurance, and TRIAD.

E-Prep Tuesday Brown Bag Lunch Series sponsored by CCCCC will be held at the Barnstable County Health & Environment Harborview Conference Room: 8/21/12, Noon to 1PM: Cape Cod Storm History – Why Cape Codders Should Prepare by Frank O'Laughlin; 8/28/12, Noon to 1PM: Avoiding E-Scams: Keeping Your Money Safe from Financial Predators on the Internet-Speaker: TBA; 9/4/12, Noon to 1PM: Keeping Fluffy & Fido Safe: Pet Emergency Preparedness-Speaker TBA; 9/11/12, Noon to 1PM: Lessons Learned from 9/11 by Chrystal A. LaPine, Barnstable County Sheriff's Office. For more details, contact Amy Wallace at awallace@barnstablecounty.org or 508-375-6908.

2011 DISASTERS RECOVERY STATUS

January 11-12 Blizzard – (DR-1959): FEMA Public Assistance - \$25.4M.

June 1 Tornado (DR-1994): FEMA Individual Assistance – 1,081 individuals approved for aid with \$4.8M distributed; Small Business administration – 283 homeowner and business loans totaling \$16.7M; FEMA Public Assistance - \$25.2M.

Tropical Storm Irene (DR-4028): FEMA Individual Assistance – 694 individuals approved for aid with \$5.5M distributed; Small Business Administration – 80 homeowner and business loans totaling \$3.4M; FEMA Public Assistance - \$24.7M.

October 29-30 Nor'easter (DR-4051): FEMA Public Assistance - \$25.4M.

FEMA recovery information is available at <http://www.fema.gov/disasters>.

MEMA HOSTS TRI-STATE MEETING

On August 7th, MEMA hosted the triannual Tri-State Directors Meeting at the State Emergency Operations Center in Framingham. The meeting focuses on Nuclear Safety, particularly the Region's nuclear power stations in Plymouth, MA (Pilgrim), Seabrook, NH (Seabrook) and Vernon, VT (Vermont Yankee). Emergency Management and Public Health staff from MA, NH and VT as well as RI were represented. The major topics that were discussed included the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Actions from the Fukushima event and Hostile Action-Based exercises presented by the NRC; Lessons Learned from the very successful Seabrook Station Federally Graded Exercise, as well as their recent Unusual Event; as well as updates from FEMA, the three host states, the three plants and the decommissioned plant at Yankee Rowe. The next Tri-State Meeting will be held in New Hampshire.

CONTINUED RMS INVOLVEMENT ENCOURAGED

Additional communities are encouraged to complete Resource Management System (RMS) Training and begin to actively enter and update their resources and facilities into the system. The RMS, which was developed with financial support from the state's Homeland Security Councils and the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security (EOPSS), is a secure web-based system that may be used by all cities and towns, state agencies and other emergency management partners including public works, public health and emergency medical services, to facilitate emergency and non-emergency mutual aid across the Commonwealth. MEMA urges all cities and towns, agencies and organizations to take full advantage of RMS by using it as an internal inventory management system and to facilitate emergency and non-emergency mutual aid support. The success of the Resource Management System, meaning the degree to which it helps municipalities, agencies and organizations locate needed resources during emergencies, ultimately depends on the commitment of the system's users to complete the training, enter their resources (equipment, people and specialized teams) into the system, and to keep the system updated. To date, over 100 entities have completed Resource Management System (RMS) Training, with over 30 actively entering and updating their resources and facilities into the system. Please contact your respective MEMA Regional Office to request additional assistance, if needed.

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

MEMA continues to encourage all communities and governmental entities to take advantage of the opportunity .to opt into the Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement and the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement program. To date, 229 entities are on board with the Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement and 159 have signed onto the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement. See the list at www.mass.gov/mema. Local officials with any questions regarding the Agreement should contact their MEMA Regional Office or Allen Phillips, MEMA Operations Manager at (508) 820-1426 or allen.phillips@state.ma.us.

NEDRIX ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On October 22nd through 24th, the Northeast Disaster Recovery Information X-Change (NEDRIX) will offer their 2012 Annual Conference at the Hyatt regency in Newport, RI. Details about the conference, which is entitled "Strengthening Regional Resilience: A 'Whole Community' Approach" are available on the NEDRIX website: <http://www.nedrix.com/>.

NOAA: JULY 2012 WAS HOTTEST MONTH ON RECORD

The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration's National Climatic Data Center has announced that the average temperature for the 48 contiguous states was 77.6 degrees (3.3 degrees above the 20th Century average). This marks the hottest month on record for the nation, besting July 1936 by .2 degrees. The warm July temperatures contributed to a record-warm first seven months of the year

and the warmest 12-month period the nation has experienced since recordkeeping began in 1895. Details are available at <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/national/2012/7>.

SOCIAL MEDIA ADDRESSES

MEMA has streamlined its Social Media addresses: Twitter is www.twitter.com/MassEMA; Facebook is www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA; and YouTube is www.youtube.com/MassachusettsEMA.

FOLLOW MEMA UPDATES ON FACEBOOK (www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA) & TWITTER, (www.twitter.com/MassEMA), AS WELL AS ON THE MEMA WEBSITE at www.mass.gov/mema.

